

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject matter are respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

I. Objection to the Abstract

The abstract of the disclosure is objected as allegedly referring to purported merits. By this Amendment, Applicant has replaced the abstract to improve clarity. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove this objection.

II. Objection to the Specification

The disclosure is objected to as allegedly containing typographical informalities. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the disclosure to improve clarity. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove this objection.

III. Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hashimoto (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0024740). Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 13, 14 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Claims 4, 6, 12, 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0024740) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been anticipated by Hashimoto or rendered obvious in view of Hashimoto, alone or in combination with the AAPA.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

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Attorney Docket No.: Q74796

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Independent claim 1 recites:

[a]n illumination system comprising: a light source; a first cylindrical lens array including a plurality of first cylindrical lens cells which divide light emitted from the light source into a plurality of beams; a second cylindrical lens array including a plurality of second cylindrical lens cells which combine the beams divided by the first cylindrical lens cells in a same direction; and a relay lens which relays the beams combined by the second cylindrical lens cells so that a majority of the beams concentrate on an incident light axis to have a Gaussian distribution.

The Examiner asserts that Hashimoto discloses all of the features of independent claim 1. In particular, the Examiner alleges that Hashimoto discloses an illumination apparatus having the features as recited in claim 1. The Examiner relies on the cited portions (fig. 1; para. 30, lines 2-5) of Hashimoto, for example, column 3, lines 33-34 discloses a first lens array having a plurality of first cylindrical lens cells. However, there is no portion of Hashimoto that teaches or suggests: “a relay lens which relays the beams combined by the second cylindrical lens cells so that a majority of the beams concentrate on an incident light axis to have a Gaussian distribution”, as required by independent claim 1 (emphasis added). Further, nowhere does Hashimoto mention anything about relaying the beams to concentrate on an incident light to have a Gaussian distribution.

Similarly, AAPA fails to teach or suggest these features of the claimed invention which are missing from Hashimoto.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as well as dependent claims 2-4, should be allowable because the cited references, do not teach or suggest all the features of the claims.

Independent claims 5 and 13 have analogous features to independent claim 1. In particular, these analogous features include: “a relay lens which relays the beams combined by the second cylindrical lens cells so that a majority of the beams concentrate on an incident light axis to have a Gaussian distribution,” or “processing the light emitted from the light source to have a Gaussian distribution in a color separation direction by combining the light emitted from the light source in a direction perpendicular to the color separation direction and concentrating a majority of the light on an incident light axis in the color separation direction.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, and 13 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons mentioned for claim 1, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Regarding dependent claims 6-12 and 14-20, claims 6-12 and 14-20 depend on claims 5 and 13, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 5 and 13.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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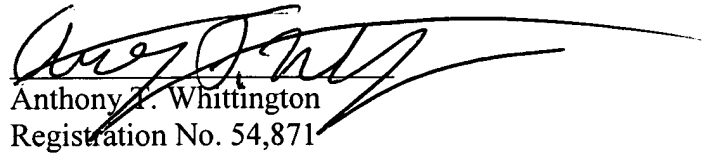
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Respectfully submitted,



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